





Wars and Rumors of Wars.

Wars and rumors of wars always form so exciting an item of intelligence, that we need not wonder if Washington City correspondents and other newsmongers are quite apt at predicting the "inevitable" occurrence of hostilities with somebody or something very soon, if not much sooner. One of the correspondents of the Baltimore Sun declares war with England certain to happen within the year, on account of difficulties in Central America, arising out of British Colonization there, in contravention of the declared policy of this country. For our own part, we do not regard war with England as at all probable. There are too many causes which will interfere to prevent it,—among the first and most powerful of which are the interests of the two countries. The United States has too much at stake to risk it on short preparation; so has Great Britain; and besides, the probabilities of a European war are much stronger, and will seriously and powerfully influence the course of England, which cannot afford to go to war with us, when threatened with a most critical struggle in its own hemisphere—a struggle which may resolve itself into a strife for existence.

The European question of the age, is the fate of the Turkish Empire. The Northern Powers having partitioned of Poland, now long to perform the same operation upon Turkey; and, indeed, Russia and Austria have only been prevented from carrying their designs into execution by the interference of the nations of Western Europe, who are jealous of the overshadowing preponderance which so great an accession of territory would give—especially to Russia, which, by the acquisition of the Turkish possessions on the Mediterranean, would become what she has long been seeking to be, a maritime power.

And further than this, the interposition of Turkey between Russia and the East Indies, is considered essential by the English to the safety of their possessions there, upon which Russia is supposed to be gazing with covetous eye; and, of course, British policy is doubly anxious for the maintenance of a system which, while it maintains the "balance of power," interposes a shield to her own possessions.

Recently, the hereditary ruler—half Priest and half Prince—of a small district of semi-savages, subject to the Sultan, undertook to throw off the Turkish yoke, no doubt inspired thereto by Russia and Austria. These people, known as Montenegros, number about one hundred thousand, and claim to be Christians of the Greek Church, of which the Emperor of Russia proclaims himself head. They are pretty well known as robbers—had refused to pay their tribute, and committed depredations upon the other peaceful inhabitants of the Empire. Accordingly, a Turkish force was sent against them, and they were soon very emphatically flogged by the Sultan's troops, under some of the best officers in Europe, who had distinguished themselves in the Hungarian struggle; and subsequently, when forced to fly into Turkey, adopted Mahometism. Turkey offers extremely liberal terms to these conquered rebels, because the rebels were Christians, attempt to dictate humiliating terms to the Turkish authorities—on demand, upon frivolous pretences, the surrender of portions of Turkish Territory, and the abandonment of many of the rights of sovereignty on other portions. To these arrogant demands, the Sublime has returned a dignified negative, and it is understood that this has been under the sanction and guarantee of England and France. The Northern Powers must, therefore, recede, or there will be what somebody improperly but expressively termed "one half of a fight."

Any European war may be all conjecture;—perhaps it is, but it is certain that it hangs heavily over the Eastern hemisphere; and it is equally certain, that while things remain as they are, England will not lightly engage in a war with the United States, alarums to the contrary notwithstanding.

There are some people who are fond of predicting wars as the necessary result of the assumption and maintenance of a proper and dignified attitude on the part of the United States. This is all folly. It is the best plan to avoid it.

**Inspectors' Returns.**  
The returns made to the Court of Pleas at its March Term, 1853, by the Inspectors of Naval Stores, &c., show the following totals for the previous year. We compare the returns with those of the year before:

	March, 1852.	March, 1853.
Turpentine.....bbls.	335,795	248,479
Spirits Turpentine.....	27,697	27,697
Cotton.....bales.	51,773	23,397
Rice.....bales.	1,526	3,394

The returns for last year compare with those of the preceding year as follows: In Turpentine there is an increase of 87,298 bbls., or over one-third; in Tar there is a falling off of 4,380 bbls., or near about one-sixth; in Spirits Turpentine, the increase is 28,376, the return for the past year showing more than double the former year. Cotton has increased 1495 bales, being out of all proportion to 54. Rice exhibits a falling off of 50 per cent. if not more.

**Taxes.**  
The Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for New Hanover county, in session last week, levied the following taxes for the year 1852:

	County.	Poor.	School.
On the Poll, (each).....	13¢	25¢	20¢
\$100 valuation of land.....	64¢	64¢	64¢
On the Poll, (each).....	20¢	20¢	20¢
Do. Lunatic.....	54¢	54¢	54¢
\$100 valuation of land.....	64¢	64¢	64¢
Do. Lunatic.....	14¢	14¢	14¢

The State tax remains the same as last year. The poll tax, for County purposes, has been increased 5 cents; for School purposes, 2 cents. The tax on land has been increased, for County purposes, 2 cents on the \$100 valuation; for School purposes, 1 cent, and for the Poor, 4 cents.

Wm. C. Bettencourt, Thomas H. Williams, and S. D. Wallace, Esqrs., were appointed to enquire what the present Jail lot could be sold for, and for what sum a suitable lot for a new Jail could be obtained, as well as the cost of putting up such new Jail.

**Body Found.**—The body of Capt. James Wilkinson, late of the Steamer Southerner, was found last Monday, about 20 miles above this place, in the Cape Fear River. The body was identified from the clothes and papers found upon it. His pocket book contained about \$100, and a note of \$100—other papers, which were not slightly defaced. Capt. Wilkinson was lost on the night of the 27th January last, from off the Steamer Southerner, which boat he commanded at the time, and was running between this place and Fayetteville.

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We were pleased to receive yesterday, and have been to lay before our constituents, the address of Mr. Ash to the Voters of the Third District, substantially the same as that published in the paper of their town and county, viz: Hon. Wm. A. Ash. It clearly explains what we will, we feel confident, meet the approbation of all our constituents, as fully as we know that it does. It will be sent to the decision. His warmest friends could ask for no better tribute.

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**Our exchanges** remind us of an omission of which we have been guilty, in neglecting to make any allusion to the anniversary of the patron Saint of Ireland—Saint Patrick—which occurred on Thursday last, the 17th inst. We notice that the various Hibernian "societies," and the "rest of mankind," have been doing due honor to the occasion, by pledging the venerable destroyer of snakes and paganism in potatoes of sufficient depth and strength to drive dull care away. Saint Patrick is worthy of all honor. We have poetical authority for stating that he "was a gentleman and come of decent people," with the additional fact in corroboration that he built a church in Dublin town, "and on it set a steeple." Certain it is, however, that St. Patrick was really a most worthy and indefatigable missionary, and did much for the advancement of christianity. It is believed that he was born in Scotland, to which we have no great objection, but we cannot help thinking that he took an awful day to be born on, for, to our knowledge, we have never seen the 17th of March, that the weather was not completely horrible, even in this country; and what must it be in the Highlands?

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is characterized by the lofty religious tone which pervades most of its author's publications. Strange as it may seem in a professed Christian country, it demands no small measure of moral heroism on the part of a Senator or Representative, thrown amid the fashionable and political circles of Washington, to enable him to appear before a Christian Association, in advocacy of the Christian's "rule of life."

The following extract with which the lecture concludes, may be taken as a fair indication of the tone and talent which it exhibits:

"What rule of life shall we follow to insure our happiness?" What is the rule?

It belongs to no profession in particular; the monarch upon his throne can secure it, the captive in his loathsome cell may retain it. There is no station, there is no condition, where it is not to be found; and it is this: It is the faithful and conscientious discharge of every duty which may be allotted to you, no matter how minute, for if the little things of life are the terrible, they are also the beautiful—the unwavering attention to the suggestions of the monitor within our breast. No man, though poor, surrounded by fame, by wealth, by science, by love, can be happy, who feels that he has turned a deaf ear to his bosom's lord. No one, however degraded, trodden down, abject, hungry, wounded, can be miserable, who knows that he has been earnest in his thirst after truth, and unflinching in his devotion to principles.

"House and shame from no conditions rise; Act well your part, there all the honor lies!"

It is the memory of our past life to which we must always look for comfort, or for reproach; the present we are too busy with; the future has too much of hope's brightest hues. It is the stern reality of the past, that must be our treasure-house of graceful recollection, our shelter from the perils of the present, and our guide to the future. Memory is the golden thread that connects the jewels together, and if it breaks, the gems will fall to the ground and lie scattered in useless profusion. It is said, and I have no doubt of it, that what we have once learned we never forget. The fading incident of our boyhood's years, the passing emotion, which seemed to float in the air, the dream of a lifetime, almost unobserved, will, in more mature life, flash back upon our mental vision, with a startling vividness; it may be true, but we apparently forget much that we have witnessed; it may be, that we cannot recall each scene at pleasure; but in the lodgments of the brain they are hidden, and memory, when we least expect it, will reproduce them, and oftentimes make our work grow pale, or our brow crimson, at the unbidden flash of recollection. And time is like the skilful workman, who is about to take down some ancient mansion; he begins at the roof, and after he has demolished that, then he takes down the higher story, and so on in an inverse order to their erection, until he reaches the foundation, which, last of all he removes; and when the last event, the top stone of our decaying tabernacle, the old man, tottering in the second childhood, will forget the scene that he has just witnessed—and yet remember well the incident of a score of years ago; and as he advanced nearer and nearer to the grave of all his faculties, and as a gloom more terrible than death is settling upon his worn-out mind, while the present is dimly before him, his garrulous tongue will still refer to you of his childhood's visions, and tell you truly, the events of his early life. What a warning does this give us: we are now laying up for ourselves blissful dreams, or we are heaping up layers of wrath; each deed we now commit, each thought we now harbor, whether evil or good, will be remembered, and will stand for the retrospection of life's last hours! Oh let us see to it that when we draw nigh to our final rest, when the damps of death are gathering upon our brow, and the hand of the destroyer is uplifted to strike us down, we may look back upon the long avenues of years through which we have trodden, and see there the smiling countenances of those whose hearts we have gladdened, whose lives we have cheered, beaming upon us their gratitude; and that we may look forward with joy, and humble hope, to those bright and beautiful mansions prepared for us in Heaven, whose maker and builder is God!

I have recently met with a beautiful little Poem, the author of which I am ignorant of, which gives the rule, in a few pointed words, and with the recitation of which I will conclude this lecture:

"There are three lessons I would write,—  
In tracings of eternal light,  
Upon the hearts of men.  
"Have Faith!" "Thou clouds environ now,  
And gladdens her with light, with scorn,  
Put those she shatters under thy brow,  
No night but hath its morn."  
"Have Faith!" "What'er thy bark is driven,—  
The calm'st thou dost—the tempest's mirth,  
Know this—God rules the hosts of Heaven,  
Thou inhabitants of earth."  
"Have Love!" Not love alone for one,  
But love for all—the world, the whole,  
And scatter, like the circling sun,  
Thy charities on all.  
"Thus grave these lessons on thy Soul—  
Hope, Faith, and Love—and thou shalt find,  
Strength when life's struggles wildest run,  
Light, when thou else wert blind!"

**Later from Havana.—Health of Mr. King—Santa Anna, &c.**  
New York, March 18.—The steamer Black Warrior, from Mobile, and Havana, with Havana dates to the 13th inst., arrived at her wharf this morning.

President King remained near Matanzas, and whilst there, he learned that his health was not so good as he had been, and he had been unable to leave himself to have no hopes of recovery, and is perfectly calm and fully prepared for the summons, whether it should be for death or a restoration to health. His friends, however, still hope on that the increasing mildness of the atmosphere will have a good effect on his lungs.

The Mexican commissioners deputed to invite Santa Anna to return to Mexico have arrived at Havana, on their way to Carthagena. They, however, learned that Santa Anna was en route to Havana, and determined to await his arrival at that port.

Later advices from Vera Cruz report that seven States had voted in favor of Santa Anna, and Puebla against him. The other States not heard from. The Mexicans are nearly unanimous in favor of his return to assume the reins of government.

**New York, March 18.**—The steamer Ohio arrived at her wharf this morning, after having been detained by a heavy fog. She brings 450 passengers, and \$2,000 in gold on freight, besides large quantities in the hands of the passengers. She also brings the mails.

The Ohio arrived off Havana on the 10th inst., but, having a few cases of Panama fever on board, she was not permitted to enter the harbor. She was ordered into quarantine, but was subsequently permitted to receive coal after thirty-six hours vexatious delay.

**Norfolk, March 18.**—The United States steamer Massachusetts, Lieut. Carter commanding, from the Pacific, sixty-five days from Rio, has arrived. She reports all well in the squadron, and her officers and crew are in excellent health.

The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Inquirer in communicating to that paper the appointment of Col. Green, of the Boston Post, as Naval Officer at Boston, says:

I am in favor of the services of editors always being acknowledged when they are generally the case when a party succeeds that the "press," which was the main cause of its triumph, is neglected, and a party of adventurers, with any quantity of brass, in lieu of brains, selected for favor. The time will come, when editors will get tired of making big men out of small sticks of timber.

**BUSINESS OF OUR RAILROAD.**



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